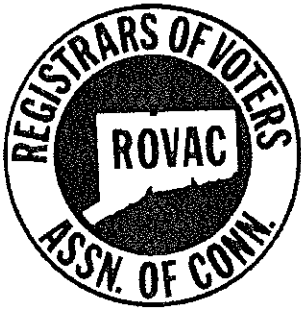


Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET P.O. BOX 495 SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Office of the Registrar of Voters

March 12, 2010



GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

Testimony in support of S.B. No. 363, An Act Concerning Polling Places for Primaries

Senator Slossberg, Representative Spallone, and members of the committee, I am Karen Cortés, acting Democratic Registrar of Voters for the Town of Simsbury, and member of the Registrar of Voters Association of Connecticut. I am here today in support of Senate Bill No. 363, An Act Concerning Polling Places for Primaries.

The Simsbury Registrars of Voters are closely watching this year's Senate and Gubernatorial political campaigns, anticipating that this August, 169 towns and cities across Connecticut will hold election primaries.

In many towns, including Simsbury, the number of primary voters appearing at the polls could easily be accommodated in fewer locations than are used for the general election. A full 42.5% of the Connecticut electorate is ineligible to vote in primaries, and among the remaining eligible voters, turnout is historically low. This bill would allow Registrars to determine the number of locations needed to accommodate voters, and provides for notification of affected voters.

Reducing the number of polling locations would achieve reduced poll staffing, office staffing, equipment moving, and memory card programming expenses—resulting in significant taxpayer savings. While taxpayer savings are achieved, we also hope that the notification portion of this bill will increase voter awareness.

In Simsbury, we would reduce our Primary Day expenses by \$10,000 under S.B. #363—savings which could be replicated in towns across our state. I ask the committee to look favorably on An Act Concerning Polling Locations for Primaries, and move the bill out of committee as soon as possible. Further, I ask that the bill be effective upon passage to allow Registrars sufficient time to determine polling locations within the ninety day period outlined in the bill's language.

My colleague Republican Registrar Margaret Diachenko and I worked cooperatively to bring this matter to the Registrar of Voters Association of Connecticut's legislative committee, and the bill has the support of the Town Clerks' Association, the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, and the Secretary of State's Office.

Thank you.

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